

CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1967

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. N.F. SAWERS, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

L.W. BLAKE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk - Mrs. P.M. Gill.

Mr. Chairman & Members of the
Crediton Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present my report for 1967.

After early delays the sewage treatment works is up to date and it is pleasing to look forward to pollution free river at the end of 1968.

This rather quiet year has only brought forward two matters which I feel need further discussion and these are:-

- (a) Dogs in food shops and
- (b) proper methods for covering tipped refuse at Punchbowl.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Pilley and Mr. Phelps of the Crediton R.D.C. in carrying out a 100% meat inspection service, to Mr. Blake for the preparation of this report and to Mrs. Gill for its production.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

N.F. SAWERS.

Medical Officer of Health.



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SECTION A

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	1,096
Registrar General's estimate of population ...	4,880
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1967 according to the rate book	1,743
Rateable Value	£201,100
Product of a Penny Rate	£800

2. VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
	38	30	68
Births illegitimate			
	Male	Female	Total
	Nil	2	2
Crude birth rate per 1,000 of population	13.9		

(b) Still Births.

There was one still birth in 1967.

(c) Deaths.

(a) Death rate.

Male	Female	Total
32	31	63

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 12.9

(b) Deaths from puerperal causes Nil

(c) Infantile Mortality

(Deaths of Infants under one year of age) Nil

(d) Causes of death as follows:-

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
Malignant neoplasm	M	1									1
Stomach	F	2									2
Malignant neoplasm	M	1							1		
Lung, Bronchus	F	-									
Malignant neoplasm	M	-									
Breast	F	1							1		
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	3							2		1
	F	4						1		2	1
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	-									
	F	1					1				
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	3								1	2
	F	3								2	1

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
Coronary Disease	M	9						1	1	3	4
Angina	F	5							1		4
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	-									
	F	1									1
Other Heart Disease	M	3								1	2
	F	1									1
Other Circulatory Disease	M	-									
	F	1									1
Pneumonia	M	5							1	3	1
	F	4									4
Bronchitis	M	2								1	1
	F	3					1		1	1	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1							1		
	F	-									
Other Defined & ill-defined Diseases	M	3						1		2	
	F	5								2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	M	1				1					
	F	-									
Total all Causes	M	32				1		2	6	11	12
	F	31					2	1	3	7	18

SECTION B

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Nursing Service.

A resident District Nurse employed by the Devon County Council adequately provides this service.

(b) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These are visited at home by two Devon County Council Health Visitors.

(c) Maternity & Child Welfare Services.

The District Nurse Midwife working in co-operation with the General Practitioners provide the basis for ante-natal care, confinement and post-natal care. In addition home helps are provided by the Devon County Council in appropriate cases.

In cases where home conditions are unsuitable confinement arrangements are made for the mother to go to Mowbray House, Exeter.

Child welfare and maternity clinics are held at Newcombes weekly and during 1967 attendances were as follows:-

<u>Infants</u>	<u>Toddlers</u>	<u>Children 2-5</u>	<u>Total</u>
1295	401	495	2191

Vaccinations, diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis immunisations are available at this Clinic but a fuller use could be made of this service.

(d) Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease.

There are no Centres in Crediton for these diseases. Cases of tuberculosis are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer at Ivybank, Exeter and he then decides whether they are nursed at home or sent to Hawkmoor Sanatorium.

(e) Mass Radiography.

Sessions in Crediton are arranged at fortnightly intervals and almost the whole population has now been screened.

(f) Infectious Diseases.

These are nursed at home and if the Doctor in attendance considers they should be transferred to hospital they are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital.

(g) Ambulances.

The Devon County Council control the ambulance service, at present one ambulance is stationed in Crediton and run by the Crediton Branch of the Red Cross.

(h) Laboratory Works.

All laboratory examinations required are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter at the new department of Pathology at Wonford.

(i) The Meals on Wheels service operated by the W.V.S. provided 2,938 meals during the year. Meals are provided by the Devon County Council kitchen at Newcombes and distributed by members of the W.V.S.

SECTION C

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(a) Sewerage.

Even after the long delay in getting the new scheme started, delays have bedevilled the project all along the line and these again occurred during the year.

The Contractors, Messrs. Conolley & Co. decided to cease civil engineering activities, and as a result considerable discussion took place on assigning the work to Devon Contractors Ltd.

However, when the contract was finally transferred the new contractor endeavoured to try and make up lost time, and by the end of the year seemed to be achieving this aim.

The limited treatment over the land still produces a polluted effluent but it appears that if the summer of 1968 can be surmounted then an effluent of good standard can be assured and the river allowed to recover.

(b) Water.

The North Devon Water Board continue to supply adequate water of good quality to the urban area.

During the year 81 samples of treated water were taken, 77 being satisfactory and 4 initially unsatisfactory. Immediate re-sampling in each case of the unsatisfactory results gave satisfactory results. Unsatisfactory samples can result from a number of causes but this does not necessarily indicate that pollution was present at the time of sampling.

(c) Public Conveniences.

The standard of two public conveniences in the town continue to be reasonable but Union Road will never prove adequate by standards now accepted.

(d) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

After a time study of back door collection, the Council decided to adhere to a kerbside collection service at weekly intervals as being the most acceptable to the majority of residents. Backdoor collection is provided when requested by aged or infirm householders.

An order was placed for a larger capacity rear loading vehicle to be delivered during 1968.

The tip because of its isolated position does not produce many complaints but the lack of a machine to adequately cover the refuse daily allows litter nuisance on adjacent roads to occur at intervals. The employment of a contractor to bulldoze and cover at six weekly intervals is not the answer to the problem.

When the new vehicle arrives it will not be able to tip over the face of the tip and the nuisance of blown paper will increase.

All refuse is accepted at the tip and very little indiscriminate dumping takes place.

(e) Rodent Control.

Complaint procedure is now mainly used for rodent control although a small amount of survey work is carried out.

During the year 80 premises were visited but only 7 were found to be infested with rats and these only on a very minor scale.

The dump was treated at regular intervals and the sewers continue to be rat free.

(f) Sanitary Inspections.

(i) Summary of Visits.

Council properties	81
Private houses	135
Food premises	18
Offices etc.	47
Slaughterhouse	156
Council tip	40
Other premises	30

(ii) Notices Served.

Housing Acts.

Time & Place Notices	6 properties.
Undertakings not to re-let	4 properties.
Undertakings given to repair	2 properties.

Public Health Acts.

Formal	1 property.
Informal	4 properties.

(g) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Work under this Act continued during the year and details are:-

<u>Type</u>	<u>No. Registered</u>	<u>No. Inspected in 1967</u>	<u>Total No. Inspected since Act.</u>
Offices	20	6	17
Retail Shops	36	14	34
Catering Establishments	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>60</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>53</u>

Minor items needed attention in most premises and these were speedily attended to.

SECTION D

5. HOUSING.

General Housing.

Bowden Hill scheme was finalised during the year with the completion of the block of six two bedroom flats. In addition the 20 houses at Churchill Drive, the first up to Parker Morris Standard, were completed.

eight.

Private houses completed were:-

Two Bedrooms	27
Three Bedrooms	24
Four Bedrooms	<u>8</u>
	<u>59</u>

41 houses were under construction on 1st January, 1967 and 28 under construction on 31st December, 1967.

Slum Clearance.

6 houses in St. Saviour's Court, 4 in Fountain Court and 2 in Mann's Place, all in Clearance Areas, were demolished during the year.

3 sub-standard cottages owned by the Devon County Council were demolished as were two in private ownership and one owned by the Crediton U.D.C.

Housing List.

The position at the end of 1967 compared with previous years was:-

	1967	1966	1965
No. on Council's Waiting List already resident in the Urban District.	89	108	73
No. on Council's Waiting List wanting to move into the town.	36	40	30
No. of key workers wanting accommodation.	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Nil</u>
	<u>127</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>103</u>

Accommodation required by these families is:-

One Bedroom	59
Two Bedrooms	45
Three Bedrooms	20
Four Bedrooms	3

Building Regulations.

The following inspections were made to enforce the Building Regulations:-

Footings	58
Foundations	55
Oversite concrete	55
Damp proof course	65
Drains	103
Routine	17
Completion	93

Improvement Grants.

Standard Grant applications only were received during the year as follows:-

No. of applications received	9
No. of applications approved	7
No. of applications refused	Nil
No. of improvements completed	10

Amenities provided	Baths	9
	Basins	9
	Hot water supplies	10
	W.C.'s	9
	Food stores	10

Amount paid in Grants £1,510.0.0.

Caravan Sites.

No difficulties have arisen during the year, the three residential caravans at Glencreedy and their sites being maintained satisfactorily.

Rent Act, 1957.

No applications were received during the year under this Act.

SECTION E

6. FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year the following food was surrendered as being unfit:-

Meat at wholesale premises	2cwts. 12 lbs.
Meat at retail shops	59 lbs.
Canned meats	93 lbs.
Other canned foods	1 cwt 90 lbs.
Fresh fruit and vegetables	3 cwt 57 lbs.
Other food	4 cwt 67 lbs.
	<hr/>
	13 cwt 42 lbs.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

The details of food shops and their type are identical to those already provided in the 1966 report.

Shops continue to be properly maintained.

The admittance of dogs into food shops is a matter which I feel should again be considered by the Council and notices issued asking customers to co-operate.

Slaughter of Animals.

100% meat inspections required 156 visits to the slaughterhouse. Carcasses inspected were:-

	1967	1966	1965
Cattle	336	308	295
Calves	25	30	19
Sheep & Lambs	1156	1931	987
Pigs	713	783	749

The following carcasses and offal were condemned:-

Whole Carcasses	2 lambs	70 lbs.
Part Carcasses	2 beef	32 lbs.
	1 pork	5 lbs.
	3 lamb	18 lbs.
	offal	1184 lbs.
	Pig's	
	head T.B.	204 lbs.

Poultry Inspection.

Again no poultry inspection has been carried out and rejection is only done by spot checks carried out by the Factory Staff.

Figures supplied by the unit are:-

Birds processed in year	500,000
Type of bird	Hens only.
Rejected	6,800

SECTION F

7. FACTORIES.

28 inspections of factory premises were carried out during the year, there being 53 registered factories.

One outworker was notified by another authority.

SECTION G

8. NOISE.

The only complaints regarding noise were again concerned with the dairy.

The background level of noise seems slowly to build up and negotiations with the management bring about a considerable reduction of night noise level but only for a limited amount each time.

9. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified Infectious Diseases.

There was a mild epidemic of measles in Spring 1967 but only the following cases of infectious disease were notified:-

Measles	Male	Female
Measles	1	5

twelve

Appendix 1
Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned
In Whole or in Part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	336	-	25	1156	713	Nil
Number inspected	336	-	25	1156	713	Nil
<u>All diseases except</u>						
<u>Tuberculosis and</u>						
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
• Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	159	Nil	Nil	26	43	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	47.3	Nil	Nil	2.4	6.0	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	18	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.5	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

